

Remarks

Status of Claims

Claims 3-10, 12-13, 15, 17, and 20-21 were pending in this application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 4 and 7 have been cancelled. New claims 22-42 have been added. Thus, claims 3-8, 12-13, 15, 17, and 20-42 are pending for examination.

Claim Objections

The amendments to claim 21 address the objection noted by the Examiner.

The Examiner noted that claims 4, 7 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 4 has been added to claim 3; the subject matter of claim 7 has been added to claim 6; and claim 12 has now been amended to be dependent on amended claim 6. Further, the limitations of claims 4, 7 and 12, including all of the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims are presented in this amendment as new claims 34, 35 and 36, respectively. These claims have been revised to improve readability thereof and thus not identical to amended 3, 6 and 12.

Rejections Under § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kenichi, JP 10-313452. As noted above, claim 3 has been amended to include all of the recitations of claim 4 indicated as containing allowable subject matter. As such, claim 3 is deemed allowable. Claim 5 depends from claim 3 and is likewise deemed allowable.

It is noted that new claim 22 is similar to claim 3 recites that the lens and viewfinder are secured to the hinge and disposed along an axis of the hinge and wherein “each of said pair of flat cases is equipped with a display unit for displaying information from at least one of (1) transmission channels and (2) images captured by said camera.” These limitations are readily seen to differentiate applicant’s invention over the prior art. Further, newly submitted claim 24 is similar to claim 5 but recites that “said viewfinder is retractable into a housing of

said hinge.” Because Kenichi does not anticipate the noted limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that newly submitted independent claim 22 and dependent claim 24 are not anticipated by Kenichi under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The Office Action rejects claims 13, 17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Umezawa et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,491,507. The subject matter of allowable claim 12 has been incorporated into claim 13, and thus claim 13 is deemed allowable. Claim 17 depends on claim 13 and is likewise deemed allowable. The subject matter of allowable claim 4 has now been added to claim 30, and thus claim 20 is deemed allowable as is dependent claim 21. Further, applicant notes that newly submitted claims 29 and 32 which are a little similar to original claims 13 and 20 but different in significant aspects. In particular, claim 29 recites an apparatus, wherein “a first flat case of said pair of flat cases and a second flat case of said pair of flat cases are each equipped with a display unit, each display unit displaying information from both transmission channels and images captured by said camera.” Newly submitted claim 32 recites an apparatus comprising “two display units, both of which are used for viewing images captured by said camera.” Because Umezawa does not anticipate the noted limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 and its dependent claim 31 and claim 32 and its dependent claim 33 are not anticipated by Umezawa under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Isashi, U.S. Patent No. 5,898,600. The subject matter of allowable claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 6 and thus claim 6 is deemed to be allowable as is dependent claim 10. Further, newly submitted independent claim 25 is derived from claim 6 but is significantly changed. Claim 25 recites an apparatus wherein “said terminal operation button comprises a two-step pressing type button.” Because Isashi does not anticipate the noted limitation, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 25 is not anticipated by Isashi under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejections Under § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isashi. As explained earlier, amended claim 6 is deemed allowable because

it incorporates the subject matter of allowable claim 7. As such claims 8 and 9 are deemed allowable as they are dependent, directly or indirectly, on claim 6. Further newly submitted claim 25, as indicated above, recites an apparatus wherein "said terminal operation button comprises a two-step pressing type button." Because Isashi does not teach the noted limitation, Applicant respectfully submits that newly submitted claim 25 and claims dependent therefrom, are likewise patentable under § 103(a) over Isashi.

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umezawa. Claim 15 is dependent on claim 13 which is deemed allowable by virtue of the addition of allowable claim 12. Further, newly submitted claim 30, modeled after original claim 15 has many additional limitations not contained in original claim 15. In particular, claim 30 recites an apparatus, wherein said pair of flat cases are in a position in which the display unit of the first flat case and the display unit of the second flat case face opposite directions, each exposed for viewing." Because Umezawa does not teach the noted limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 30 is patentable under § 103(a) over Umezawa.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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